Projects for improving environment

*37 SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DAVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects undertaken for improvement of environment during the last two years;

(b) the extent of achievement;

(c) whether there is any plan to take up any other such projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The projects undertaken for improvement of environment during the last two years include the following:

(i) Industry specific studies for formulation of Pollution Control Standards;

(ii) Preparation of District-wise Zoning Atlas for siting of industries;

(iii) Inventorisation of Hazardous Waste Generating industries;

(iv) Water & Air quality monitoring; and

(v) Performance studies of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and Sewage Treatment Plants.

(b) The achievements in respect of the projects are as under:

(i) Pollution Control Standards have been so far formulated in respect of 90 categories of polluting sources including 6 new standards laid down during the last two years;

(ii) 61 Districts have been covered in 18 States for preparation of District-wise Zoning Atlas for sitting of industries;

(iii) Inventories for hazardous waste generating industries have been prepared for 9 states;

(iv) Water & Air quality monitoring have been carried out in 507 water quality monitoring stations and 295 air quality monitoring stations in different parts of the country; and

(v) Performance studies for 32 sewage treatment plants and 15 common effluent treatment plants have been carried out.

(c) and (d) During the 10th Plan, the on-going activities will be continued and consolidated.

Losses of Steel Industry

*38. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the indigenous steel industry is in a great crisis and almost all the units are running under losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the present crisis;

(c) whether the steel industry is demanding ban on import of seconds and defective steel ; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Due to adverse conditions in the steel market, both domestic and international, the Indian steel industry is passing through a difficult phase. Although many steel plants are maintaining a healthy record of operating profits, they are posting net losses after accounting for depreciation and interest. The primary factors responsible for this situation are (i) excess supply and low demand for steel in the domestic market, (ii) import of steel at low prices, (iii) falling steel prices, (iv) high production costs, (v) closure of important export markets for the Indian steel due to protectionist measures initiated by a number of importing countries, (vi) general slow down in the Indian economy and recessionary trends in the global steel market.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The main steel producers have been demanding a ban on the imports of seconds and defectives. To cope with the problem of cheap imports of seconds and defective steel items, the following steps have been taken by the Government:

- Floor prices on imports of seconds and defective of certain steel items imposed earlier continue;